



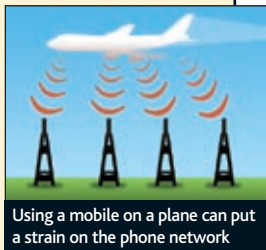
HANDHELDS FAQ

Q When flying, I know that all electronic equipment has to be turned off during take-off and landing, but why must mobile phones be turned off for the entire flight?

A Using a mobile phone on an aircraft has been prohibited since 1995 under the Air Navigation Order. The best-known reason is that mobile phones, along with all electronic equipment, emit electromagnetic waves that could interfere with an aircraft's systems.

However, there is another theory as to why mobiles must be turned off at cruising altitudes: the effect of a plane full of mobiles on a mobile phone network. When a phone is turned on, it tries to register with whichever base station has the strongest signal. When in the air, there are no buildings or hills to get in the way of the signal, so the phone could see a very strong signal from a large number of base stations and try to register with all of them, putting a strain on the network. A plane also passes over base stations at such a rapid rate that the speed of the handover from station to station could overload the network.

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Using a mobile on a plane can put a strain on the phone network

REVIEW PDA

DELL Axim X51v 624MHz

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £325 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Dell 08709 075818

DETAILS www.dell.co.uk

Dell's Axim X51v is an update to the Axim X50v, previously the fastest handheld you could buy. It's similar in design and specification, but it runs the latest Windows Mobile 5 operating system and has some important changes to its method of system management and memory storage.

The PDA's glossy black and silver finish looks smart and the bottom of the PDA has Windows PDA short cut buttons for calendar, contacts and messages. The standard X51 has a 240x320 resolution screen; the X51v has a high-resolution 480x640 pixel display. The screen is bright at its maximum setting and the higher resolution means there is more room to display web pages properly.

The Axim has no problems connecting to the internet, thanks to built-in Bluetooth and 802.11b wireless networking. Windows Mobile 5 supports the latest WPA encryption, so the X51v should have no trouble connecting to most wireless networks. Setting up a wireless network is easy, as the preinstalled Dell WLAN utility groups all the connection and encryption settings in one place.

The X51v shares the X50's 624MHz Intel XScale processor and Intel 3D graphics accelerator, making it the most powerful PDA available, with capacity for 3D games. The biggest difference is the way the X51v manages memory with Windows Mobile 5. PDAs based on previous Windows Mobile operating systems used volatile RAM to store running programs as well as saved programs and



documents. You lost all your data if the PDA ran out of battery power, and you had to manually adjust the amount of RAM that was allocated to running programs or saving data.

The X51v uses its 64MB of RAM exclusively for storing running programs, but has a further 256MB of non-volatile flash memory for installed programs and saved data. So you don't have to manually adjust the PDA's memory allocation and your data is safe if the X51v runs out of battery power. The main disadvantage of the new system is speed. As flash memory is slower than

RAM, programs are slower to start and documents slower to open, as the data has to be transferred from one type of memory to another.

The X51v has plenty of internal storage, so it can be used to store media files without having to buy an SD or CF memory expansion card. Getting video files on the player is easier than with previous Windows Mobile PDAs, as Windows Mobile 5 can synchronise with Windows Media Player 10. Media Player converts the file to a type compatible with the PDA, but some of our video test files had distorted aspect ratios and jerky frame rates.

This powerful PDA has all the advantages of the Windows Mobile 5 operating system. You won't find a PDA with more features or a better screen.

Chris Finnamore

✓ Powerful; excellent screen

✗ Expensive; programs slow to start

SPECIFICATIONS PDA, Windows Mobile 5, 3.7" 480x640 LCD, 624MHz Intel XScale Processor, 64MB RAM, 256MB storage (195MB available), Bluetooth, infrared, 802.11b, SD/MMC slot, CF slot. Part code X51v

HOTLIST GPS NAVIGATION PACK

TOMTOM Navigator 5 Navigation Pack



RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £355 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.directmobileaccessories.co.uk

DETAILS www.tomtom.com

TomTom's navigation pack includes an HP iPAQ PDA, a Bluetooth GPS receiver and version 5 of TomTom's Navigator software. The kit is easy to set up; the software installs from the supplied SD card and is configured to pair with the Bluetooth receiver included. The software is easy to use with voice prompts and a clear display. A great-value PDA and navigation device.



SPECIFICATIONS GPS navigation kit, HP iPAQ hx2110 PDA, TomTom Bluetooth GPS receiver, TomTom Navigator 5 software, windscreen/dashboard mount

HOTLIST MOBILE PHONE

SONY ERICSSON W800i

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £280 SIM-free; from free on contract

SUPPLIER www.expansys.com (SIM-free);

Orange/Vodafone/O2/T-Mobile/Virgin (contract)

DETAILS www.sonyericsson.co.uk

This is a superb music player and phone in one. Transferring music to the phone is easy using the supplied software, and the phone's music-playing application is fast. Sound quality is superb, and the camera is the best we have seen on a phone.



SPECIFICATIONS Music phone, tri-band, 400 hours standby, 540 minutes of talk time, Bluetooth/IR connectivity, radio, 512MB memory Stick Duo, 176x200-pixel display, 99g, 100x46x20.5mm (HWD). Part code W800

HOTLIST PDA

T-MOBILE MDA Pro

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £130 to £350 inc VAT depending on contract

SUPPLIER T-Mobile 01707 315000

DETAILS www.t-mobile.co.uk

The MDA Pro is the first PDA and phone combination we have seen with Windows Mobile 5. Its clamshell body opens to reveal a full-size keyboard, so it's perfect for typing emails and the occasional document. Wireless networking and GPRS are built in, making the MDA Pro excellent for messaging.



SPECIFICATIONS Windows Mobile 5, 520MHz Intel PXA270 processor, 48MB RAM, 3.6" 640x480 screen, 3G/GPRS/Bluetooth/802.11b/IR/USB connectivity, built-in QWERTY keyboard, 1.3-megapixel camera, SD card slot, 79x22x132mm, weighs 210g



REVIEW MOBILE PHONE

TOSHIBA
TS10

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £60 inc VAT (with Vodafone prepay)

SUPPLIER www.vodafone.co.ukDETAILS www.toshiba.co.uk

Toshiba is a newcomer to the UK mobile phone market, having only recently brought out three new handsets. The TS10 is a budget clamshell that's available on Vodafone prepay.

The phone looks different to most clamshell handsets. Instead of being small and round, the phone is long and almost as slim as Motorola's RAZR. The outside is covered with strange dimples, but the phone looks expensive and feels solidly made, aside from a wobbly flip. A monochrome external display shows the date and time, as well as the name of incoming callers.

The phone feels huge with the flip open, but it is comfortable to hold. Despite the large size of the upper section of the flip, the screen is small at just 1.8". The display is colourful and bright, and quite impressive for a budget handset. The TS10 also has a great keypad. The round keys are well spaced and easy to press, a pleasant change from the fiddly and cramped keypads of many current handsets. Unfortunately, the keypad is too long, making one-handed texting difficult as you have to stretch to the two soft keys at the top to add punctuation or scroll through predictive text options.

The TS10 has a simple and logical interface. The main menu screen has nine icons for the phone's main functions and the submenus are organised into lists. The only confusing aspect is that the icons are slightly misleading and some of



the phrases used to describe functions are a bit odd. The contacts menu is represented by what looks like a pair of shorts, and the phone's profiles are called phone modes. It doesn't take long to get used to, but it seems strange that Toshiba doesn't use the same terminology as other handset manufacturers.

However, the TS10 gets the basics right. The predictive texting interface works well and the keys to insert a space or a punctuation mark are in the same places as on Nokia's handsets. It's a shame the phone doesn't choose an apostrophe automatically when pressing the punctuation key before an 's', as this slows down texting considerably. Call quality is reasonable, though a bit muffled.

As the TS10 is a budget handset, it has a limited set of features. There are basic calendar functions, a calculator and stopwatch and a WAP browser to connect to the Vodafone Live! service. The camera has a low 640x480 resolution, but as there's no way to transfer pictures to a PC, you can't use the phone as a digital camera replacement.

This is a stylish handset and is good value. It has a decent screen, and once you are used to the terminology quirks in the interface it is easy to use. The mobile phone market may be crowded, but the TS10 manages to stand out.

Chris Finnamore



Attractive design; good-quality screen



Oddly named options in the menu; a lot of spacing between keys

SPECIFICATIONS Mobile phone, Tri-Band, GPRS, VGA camera, 1.8" 128x160 resolution, 150 minutes talk time, 150 hours standby.
Part code TS10

HOTLIST POCKET PC

ACER
n50 Premium

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £231 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.dabs.comDETAILS www.acer.co.uk

Acer's n50 won a Best Buy award in our PDA Megatest (*Labs, Shopper* August 2005) with its powerful performance, stylish looks and low price. It has a brushed metal effect casing and simple, uncluttered design. Applications start up almost instantly. It has good battery life and infrared, Bluetooth and wireless networking built in, as well as a generous 124MB of user-available storage. Excellent value.



SPECIFICATIONS Intel PXA272 520MHz processor, 124.27MB RAM, SD card slot, Windows Mobile 2003 SE, weighs 150g.
Part code CP.N500H.024

HOTLIST SMARTPHONE GPS KIT

NAVICORE
Personal for
Symbian Series 60

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £150 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.mobilefun.co.ukDETAILS www.navicoretech.com

Navicore's Personal is a GPS navigation system for the Symbian Series 60 operating system, as used by Nokia and Siemens smartphones. It consists of a Bluetooth GPS receiver and an RS MMC card containing the map program.

Planning a route is easy thanks to the logical software, and voice prompts are clear and accurate. It's not cheap, but it's the best GPS system for a series 60 phone.

SPECIFICATIONS GPS Navigation for Symbian Series 60 OS, SiRF III Bluetooth GPS receiver, UK maps. **Part code** 133-8432



CHOOSING A...

POCKET
PC

Five points to remember when buying a Windows-based PDA

1 Pocket PC PDAs run Microsoft's version of Windows for mobile devices. The latest version of this is Windows Mobile 2005 for Pocket PC. The interface is not exactly like Windows on your desktop but there are similarities. All Pocket PC devices are touch-screen driven and support handwriting recognition. Microsoft specifies a colour display and resolution of 240x320 pixels.

2 A Pocket PC's processor plays a large part in determining how it performs. Intel's XScale series of processors is currently popular among makers; other processor manufacturers include Samsung and Motorola. A top-of-the-range PDA should have a 520MHz or even 624MHz processor.

3 A Pocket PC's memory provides space for applications to load and storage when the device is turned off. ROM memory is non-volatile so its contents will still be there after a reset or battery failure. RAM memory is backed up by battery power and is where third-party applications and your files will be stored. Look out for features such as FileStore, which allow you to safely keep your important documents in the ROM of the device. The more RAM the better, if you'll be using third-party applications such as games.

4 Almost all Pocket PC PDAs provide a slot of some form, allowing you to add more storage capacity. The most common types are CompactFlash and Secure Digital (SD). Both formats allow you to add extra memory cheaply, and the expansion slots can also be used to add extra features such as Bluetooth or wireless network connectivity.

5 To connect your Pocket PC to the internet using a mobile phone, Bluetooth is a must. If you have a wireless LAN installed, look for 802.11b networking in your Pocket PC to allow wireless web browsing and access to networked files.

FILL IN YOUR SPECS HERE

(Recommended minimum in grey)

PROCESSOR: 266MHz Samsung

MEMORY: 32MB Ram, 32MB ROM

RESOLUTION: 240x320 pixels

EXPANSION: SD

OPERATING SYSTEM: Pocket PC 2002